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## ***Appendix D***

*Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet,  
Comment Form, and Handouts*





# REGISTRATION

U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas Field Office



## Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Environmental Impact Statement

### PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

**Date:**

*Copies of this Registration will be available for public review at the local BLM office during regular business hours. Individuals requesting their personal information be withheld from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must check "YES" in the appropriate column. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law.*

Name & Address  (PLEASE PRINT)	Withhold Personal Information	Add to Mailing List	Send Copy of Draft EIS
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> CD <input type="checkbox"/> Print
	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> CD <input type="checkbox"/> Print
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**Email Address** [lvblmeis@pbsj.com](mailto:lvblmeis@pbsj.com)

# **Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes**

## **Class II**

**Managed to retain the landscape's existing character. In these areas authorized actions may not modify existing landscapes or attract the attention of casual viewers.**

## **Class III**

**Managed for partial retention of the existing character of the landscape. In these areas authorized actions may alter the existing landscape, but not to the extent that they attract or focus attention of the casual viewer.**

## **Class IV**

**Managed to allow activities involving major modification of the landscape's existing character. In these areas authorized actions may create significant landscape alterations and would be obvious to casual viewers.**



# Air Quality

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Air quality is a major concern in the Las Vegas Valley. Airborne dust particles (known as particulate matter or PM<sub>10</sub>) and other emissions can have an impact on human health and visibility over time. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that air quality in the Las Vegas area is in serious non-attainment for particulate matter and carbon monoxide (CO). Particulate matter is released to air by surface disturbance activities such as excavation and earth moving at construction sites. Most of the CO in the Las Vegas area comes from vehicle emissions. Clark County has prepared State Implementation Plans to help resolve the air quality issues in the Las Vegas area. These plans include actions to control activities that impact air quality, such as construction activities and transportation developments in the area.

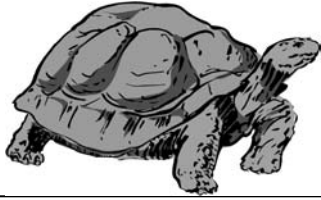
Public land sales are transfer of title actions, which are exempt from Clean Air Act conformity determinations. However, because the land sale could indirectly impact the environment in the Las Vegas Valley, the potential impacts will be addressed in the EIS.

When gathering public input regarding the management and sale of public land, comments previously received by the BLM on air quality have focused on maintaining existing conditions and improving those areas that have been degraded. Representative comments and questions include:

- ❖ “Air quality must be improved, both for breatheability and visibility. Clean air and long views are priceless to the residents and visitors of the Las Vegas Valley.”
- ❖ “Will you be analyzing how the land sale and subsequent land development will affect the air quality?”

## **What do you think about air quality in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ Are there specific environmental features or special areas that should be considered during the selection of public land for disposal and the scheduling of public land auctions to protect air quality?



## Biological Resources

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Sensitive biological resources such as the Mojave desert tortoise, migratory birds, the Las Vegas bearpoppy, and native cacti and yucca species occur throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Conservation measures are identified in the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for habitat protection and management of listed and sensitive species.

Public land sales are administrative actions, therefore would not result in direct effects to sensitive species or their habitat. However, because the land sale could indirectly affect the location and amount of development activity in the Las Vegas Valley, the potential for impacts to sensitive species will be addressed in the EIS.

When gathering public input on the management and disposal of public land, comments previously received by the BLM regarding biological resources mostly reflect the need to protect existing habitat to the fullest extent possible. Representative comments and questions include:

- ❖ “[We] would like to see all of [our] remaining undeveloped public land given a higher priority to wildlife and open spaces.”
- ❖ “[My] concern is for native desert animals in the area, like desert tortoises, burrowing owls, and kit foxes. Most of them live underground and would be impacted by land clearing and development...that would ultimately occur.”
- ❖ “I’m an avid bird watcher and am concerned about impacts to the riparian areas, such as the Las Vegas Wash, that support migratory birds and other wildlife.”
- ❖ “Will the native cactus and yucca plants on public lands be available for commercial salvage before the lands are sold?”
- ❖ “Are any actions proposed that are not in conformance with the incidental take permit issued by the USFWS for the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan?”

### **What do you think about sensitive biological resources in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS to protect habitat for sensitive species?
- ❖ Are there specific lands in the Disposal Area that should be retained for sensitive plants, plant communities, or wildlife habitat, or specific lands that are adjacent to such habitats? Which areas?



## Cultural and Paleontologic Resources

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Cultural and paleontologic resources are the tangible remains of past human activities. Evidence of the distinctive cultural groups who adapted to the local environment and natural resources of the area has been studied and documented at locations throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Paleontologic resources (fossils), remains or traces of plants and animals that existed during the 600 million year geologic history of Southern Nevada, have also been recorded in portions of the Las Vegas Valley.

When gathering public input regarding the management and disposal of public land, comments previously received by the BLM regarding historic and cultural resources generally emphasized the importance of preserving these resources for future generations and managing the land accordingly. Many concerns relate to impacts from land development, mineral exploration and development, and recreational uses. Some would like to see more features added, such as historic trail markers, where others prefer to leave things simple, with as few intrusions into the landscape as possible. Representative comments and questions include:

- ❖ “...we need to recognize our stewardship responsibilities toward these precious historic resources [westward emigrant trails] and do all in our power to ensure that future generations will continue to have the opportunity to stand in the tracks of their ancestors.”
- ❖ “[My] concern is the archaeological sites in the area. Most of them are subsurface sites [that] would be destroyed by the grading for roads...that would ultimately be built.”

### **What do you think about the cultural and paleontologic resources in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS to protect cultural properties and Native American-respected places?
- ❖ Should any lands located in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area, within the viewshed of a historic trail or property, be withdrawn from disposal consideration and preserved for recreation and public purposes?
- ❖ Are there other special places in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area that should be protected for cultural or historic value? How?
- ❖ How should areas with potential for significant paleontologic resources be managed related to the planning and disposal of public lands?



# Land Management

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The Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary was created by the 1998 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) and modified by the 2002 Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act. The BLM is required by law to assess the impacts to the environment of most actions the BLM authorizes on public land, including sales. The BLM will evaluate, through completion of this EIS, all resources that may be impacted by any future land sales, or by the BLM's authorization to sell lands, in the Las Vegas Valley.

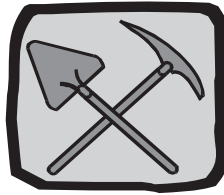
When gathering public input regarding the management and disposal of public land, comments and questions previously received by the BLM generally include:

- ❖ “How are the parcels selected for the BLM auctions authorized under SNPLMA?”
- ❖ “How much land and which parcels are available for sale in Clark County? When will the sale occur?”
- ❖ “How are the land sales done and what are the terms of the sale?”
- ❖ “What will happen to my existing easement if the property is sold? Will I have to participate in the competitive bid process to retain my easement?”
- ❖ “The empty lot next to my house is public land. I'd like to put my name on a list to receive first priority consideration to purchase the lot. Is this possible?”
- ❖ “Does the BLM consider local community planning in their NEPA documents?”
- ❖ “Will all of the lands within the Disposal Area be transferred to private ownership?”

## **What do you think about management of public lands in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS?
- ❖ How should existing rights be addressed on long-term easements for roadways, utilities, minerals, etc., as part of the land sale planning process?





# Mineral Development

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The Bureau of Land Management allows mineral material operations within 3 community pits located in the Las Vegas Valley. These pits produce approximately 3 million tons of sand and gravel per year for the Las Vegas market, generating approximately \$2 million in revenues for the Federal government. Lands encumbered by the community pit designations total 7,000 acres. The reserves of sand and gravel in these pits are estimated to last 15-20 years.

When gathering public input on the management and disposal of public land, representative comments previously received by the BLM regarding mineral resource management have included:

- ❖ “I think development of mineral resources, such as gravel, should be allowed to continue in the area. It is a use that’s compatible with land development and keeping it in the Valley would be less expensive than hauling gravel in from another location.”
- ❖ “Will any subsurface mineral rights in the Valley be retained by the BLM?”

## **What do you think about mineral development in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS to protect mineral development?
- ❖ What areas (if any) should be closed to mineral development activity?
- ❖ What special operating conditions (if any) related to the planning and sale of public lands should be applied to mineral development (surface mining and subsurface extraction) operations?
- ❖ How should existing rights be addressed on mineral leasing, mining operations, and existing mining claims as part of the land disposal planning process?



# Recreational Opportunities

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Many public lands in and around the Las Vegas Valley are valued for the recreational opportunities they provide, both for residents and tourists. When gathering public input regarding the management and disposal of public land, comments and questions previously received by the BLM regarding recreational resources generally include:

- ❖ “I ride my horse on the trail behind my neighborhood. I think it’s located on BLM land. How will the land sale affect trails that are currently used by the public?”
- ❖ “Will recreational facilities be addressed when analyzing which lands to sell versus lands to be retained for public purposes?”
- ❖ “As a nature photographer, I like to shoot broad, open spaces. Office buildings, housing developments, utility lines, or other objects can mess up the shot.”
- ❖ “We are against any actions which would result in cutting off access to existing roads, routes, or trails to recreations areas located adjacent to the land sale boundary.”

## **What do you think about recreation in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS to protect recreational opportunities?
- ❖ Do roads or trails in the Las Vegas Valley provide access to recreational opportunities on lands adjacent to the Land Disposal Area? Where are they located and what recreation area/opportunity do they provide access to?
- ❖ Are there specific areas in the Land Disposal Area that should be retained for existing and future planned recreation and public purposes , such as parks, sport facilities, walking, biking, horse riding, and OHV trails, overlook areas, wildlife viewing, or access routes to adjacent recreational areas?



## Water Resources - Quality and Quantity

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Water is a scarce commodity in Southern Nevada and is thus a critical element in protecting human health and welfare, and biological diversity and stability. Southern Nevada is in a drought condition and conservation measures have been placed on water use in the Las Vegas Valley. Surface-water runoff from the urban areas of the Valley enters the Las Vegas Wash and eventually Lake Mead, the primary source of the Valley's drinking water. Groundwater in the Valley is used to supplement the water from Lake Mead during high-demand months.

When gathering public input regarding the management and disposal of public land, comments previously received by the BLM on the quality and quantity of water resources have focused on conserving existing water supply. Representative comments and questions include:

- ❖ “The sale of land will lead to more development. We are in a drought right now. I feel that the increased development will only add to the problem.”
- ❖ “Water requirements resulting from the land sale should be analyzed and incorporated into all management decisions.”
- ❖ “My concern is water quality in the area and the possibility of the springs throughout the region drying up due to the amount of water needed for the proposed land to be developed...lack of good quality water will drive the wildlife from the area.”

### **What do you think about the quality and quantity of water resources in the Las Vegas Valley Land Disposal Area?**

- ❖ What issues related to the planning and sale of public lands should be analyzed in the EIS to protect water quality and quantity?